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From: Allen, HarryL
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Subject: draft update

EPA Region 9 Activities

The discharge has moved quickly and was last observed between Kirtland and Shiprock, NM. Navajo officials reacted days prior to the observed impact, assessing their well fields and drinking and irrigation water intake systems and issuing a precautionary "do not use" public service announcement regarding water from potentially impacted sources. On 8/8, the President of the Navajo Nation declared a State of Emergency for the San Juan River valley. Region 9 held a coordination meeting today with Navajo Nation EPA (NNEPA) and Navajo Department of Public Safety.

Region 9 has deployed an On Scene Coordinator (OSC) to the Durango Incident Command Post to coordinate Region 9 activities with an EPA Area Command in Region 8. The Region has also deployed a Public Information Officer (PIO) to participate in a Joint Information Center (JIC), presently in Durango, with and other the affected Federal, State, County and Tribal agencies.

Region 9 deployed an OSC to the Farmington Incident Command Post today to coordinate field activities and stakeholder requests for assistance. The ICP is co-located with EPA Incident Commanders from Region 6 (Dallas, TX office).

The Navajo EPA surface water monitoring program (Shiprock Office) collected water and sediment samples from the San Juan River - prior to the spill impact and have since established 8 fixed monitoring stations to be sampled daily. The stations stretch along the San Juan between Shiprock, NM and Mexican Hat, UT. Region 9 has provided 6 START contractors to coordinate and conduct increased sample collection and lab analysis in conjunction with NNEPA (a static map of the sampling locations "Overview" is attached).

Today START contractors tried to pinpoint the leading edge of the waste water discharge plume near Hogback, NM. Though not clearly visible as before, contractors conducted conductivity monitoring and collected samples from the area in an attempt to identify downstream impacts. Also, coordination calls today with Federal agencies, State of AZ, Coconino County and City of Page officials and congressional representatives suggested the need for sampling even further downstream in the Glen Canyon, Lake Powell and Coconino County segments of the San Juan River. EPA has begun to coordinate efforts with those of the Bureau of Reclamation and US Geological Survey to share information.

NNEPA also requested drinking water sampling support immediately for Navajo operated water intakes. A USEPA drinking water experts has deployed and is working with NNEPA to inventory and assess water sources including private wells and intakes. USEPA will establish and provide a

1-800 telephone for private citizens and entities to request well water sampling.

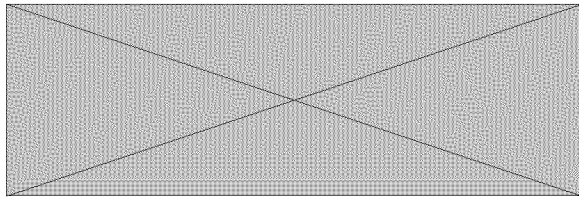
Region 9 has hired a contractor to coordinate with Navajo Tribal Utilities Authority (NTUA) to deliver water to the areas impacted by the discharge. The Montezuma Creek well development area was closed as a precaution prior to any impact. EPA contractors are collecting NTUA provided water from the Sweetwater wellfield and delivering it to the Montezuma Creek service area.

Two Community Involvement Coordinators (CICs) arrived in Farmingtonon Sunday. The CICs will partner with various Navajo officials and agencies to ensure comprehensive outreach to all affected Navajo Chapters. The CICs have begun working with local Navajo Chapter officials and participated in public meetings at Aneth and Oljato on 8/10.

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